



**MSN Gaming Zone**

**C**♠**avendish**<sup>wbp</sup>



## **Invitational**

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Bulletin Number 1

Wednesday, May 5, 1999

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# **Welcome to Las Vegas – and the 25th Annual Cavendish Invitational**

World Bridge Productions welcomes you to the 1999 Cavendish Teams and Pairs and the WBP Pairs. We are also pleased to welcome back our sponsor, MSN Gaming Zone.

This year's Cavendish Pairs remains a five-session event. Last year's new event, the WBP Pairs, is back by popular demand, only this time its three sessions have been moved to all day Saturday and one session Sunday. It is designed for those not able to play in the Cavendish Invitational Pairs but wishing to play in a similar event. A complete schedule can be found on page 3.

This year's Cavendish field remains truly international in scope, as so many of our North American tournaments have become in recent years. Players are here from all over the world (see the rosters on pages 3-5) and if humans were indigenous to Antarctica we'd expect to see a few from there, as well. Many of the world's top players are here including current international, zonal and world title holders.

It's good to see so many friendly and familiar faces. In the spirit of friendship and good bridge we welcome you to the 1999 Cavendish Invitational. We wish everyone a fun and successful experience. Enjoy Las Vegas and good bridge to all!

John Roberts, Bob Hamman, Robert Blanchard and Bill Rosenbaum

## Some Expansions and Clarifications of Conditions of Contest

### Systems – General:

- It is our intent to allow methods with which contestants are (or we deem them to be) familiar.
- It is also our intent to allow a reasonable degree of artificiality in auctions where the opening bid has guaranteed considerable extras over opening bid value or where the response guarantees game invitational values or better (23 HCP).

### Systems – Some clarifying points in Condition 11:

- 11-a) Swedish and Polish Club systems are permitted.
- 11-d) A gambling 3NT is permitted; 3NT as a preempt in a minor is not permitted.
- 11-l) Transfer opening bids and transfer responses other than to an opening bid of 1NT and 2NT are not permitted. But:  
Rubensohl is permitted and transfer responses to an overcall are permitted so long as the transfer guarantees length in the implied suit.  
Transfer responses to an opponent's T/O double are permitted if the bid guarantees length in the implied suit.  
Transfer responses to an opening 1♣ bid are allowed so long as the partnership has guaranteed game invitational values in HCP.

### Cavendish Pairs:

- Carryover from Qualifying to Final:  
There will be a 33% carryover from each pair's qualifying score into the final two sessions. To adjust the score to fit a field of 20 qualifying pairs, the raw score resulting from 31 comparisons will be divided by that number of comparisons and then multiplied by 9, the number of comparisons in the finals and this result will then be divided by 3. In no case shall the spread between the highest and lowest qualifying scores be greater than 40 realimps (realimps are the totalimps divided by the number of comparisons) or a total of  $40 \times 9 = 360$  adjustedimps. If the leading qualifier has a qualifying score greater than 40 realimps or 360 adjustedimps the lead score will be reduced to the maximum carryover of 40 realimps, with the other qualifying scores being prorated.
- Carryover from the Qualifying into the Secondary Final:  
There will be a 20% carryover of each pair's final non-qualifying score. To adjust the score to fit a field of 44 non-qualifying pairs, the raw score resulting from 31 comparisons will be divided by that number of comparisons and then multiplied by 21, the number of comparisons in the secondary final. This product will be divided by 5. It is expected that there will be minus scores carried over. In no event will the lowest score be minus more than 10 realimps or 210 totalimps.
- Format for the Qualifying Rounds:  
The field will be seeded solely by auction prices. The field will be arrayed and divided into 8 brackets (ties if any for the bottom of any bracket and the top of the next lower bracket will be broken by chance). All pairs will play four of the seven other pairs in its bracket and five of the eight pairs in each of the other brackets. All pair numbers will be assigned randomly.
- In the Event of a Tie for the Last Qualifying Position:  
A tie shall be any group of pairs who have the exact same qualifying score. If tied pairs have played each other, the head-to-head winner of that round(s) of tied pairs will be declared the first tie-breaking winner. If there is no head-to-head winner, the second tie-breaker will be the pair which has won the most rounds. (A winning round is net plusimps on the two boards played.) The third tie-breaker shall be the pair who was plus netimps on the most number of boards.

## Schedule

Day	Time	Activity	Location
Wednesday, May 5th	11:30 AM	Opening Brunch Banquet	2nd floor Convention Center Vista Ballroom 206-10
	12:00 PM	Auction, Teams	2nd floor Convention Center
	1:30 PM	1st Session, Teams	3rd floor Convention Center, 318-319
	8:00 PM	2nd Session, Teams	3rd floor Convention Center, 318-319
Thursday, May 6th	12:00 PM	Final Session, Teams	3rd floor Convention Center, 318-319
	TBA	Vu Graph	3rd floor Convention Center, 302
	6:15 PM	Cocktail Party	3rd floor Rotunda Ballroom
	7:45 PM	Cavendish Pairs Auction Toast To The Internet	3rd floor Rotunda Ballroom
Friday, May 7th	12:00 PM	1st Qual. Session, Pairs	3rd floor Convention Center, 318-319
	7:30 PM	2nd Qual. Session, Pairs	3rd floor Convention Center, 318-319
Saturday, May 8th	11:00 AM	WBP Brunch (all invited)	3rd floor Convention Center, 315
	11:30 AM	WBP Auction	3rd floor Convention Center, 318-319
	12:30 PM	3rd Qual. Session, Pairs	3rd floor Convention Center, 318-319
	12:30 PM	1st Session, WBP Pairs	3rd floor Convention Center, 318-319
	7:30 PM	1st Final Session, Pairs	3rd floor Convention Center, 318-319
	7:30 PM	Non-Qual. 1st Session	3rd floor Convention Center, 318-319
	7:30 PM	2nd Session, WBP Pairs	3rd floor Convention Center, 318-319
TBA	Vu-Graph	3rd floor Convention Center, 302	
Sunday, May 9th	12:00 PM	2nd Final Session, Pairs	3rd floor Convention Center, 318-319
	12:00 PM	Non- Qual. Final Session	3rd floor Convention Center, 318-319
	12:00 PM	Final Session, WBP Pairs	3rd floor Convention Center, 318-319
	TBA	Vu-Graph	3rd floor Convention Center, 302
	6:00 PM	Awards Ceremony and Closing Cocktail Party	2nd floor Convention Center Vista Ballroom 206-10

## Entrants for the WBP Pairs

Pair #		Pair #	
1	Nell Cahn – Petra Hamman	14	Rose Johnson – Jo Morse
2	Dan Jacobs – Rob Crawford	15	John Gowdy – Bill Curtis
3	Colby Vernay – Barry Schaefer	16	Leonard Ernst – Richard Halperin
4	Jan Martel – Joanna Stansby	17	Charlton Buckley – Bruce Ferguson
5	Reese Milner – Disa Cheeks	18	Joe Ellsbury – Peggy Sutherland
6	Michael Elienescu – Sorin Pleacoff	19	John Jeffrey – Jeff Gargrave
7	Lorne Russell – Sy Dombu	20	Joel Woolridge – Darren Wolpert
8	Mike Lucas – Cam Donner	21	Allen Hawkins – Jim Foster
9	Roberta Epstein – Mark Epstein	22	Roger Lord – Wojciech Kurkowski
10	Michael Friedman – Larry Cohen	23	John Solodar – Judith Weisman
11	Kishore Anand – Ghassan Menachi	24	John Lowenthal – Gail Stanhope
12	David Yates – Michael McNamara	25	Tom Smith – John Roberts
13	Doug Doub – Martin Fleischer		

## Entrants for the MSN Gaming Zone Cavendish Teams

### Team #

- 1 Ralph Katz, George Jacobs, Howard Weinstein, Steve Garner, Bob Hamman, Nick Nickell
- 2 Mike Whitman, Grant Baze, George Mittelman, Henry Mansell
- 3 John Onstott, Mark Lair, Garey Hayden, Robison
- 4 Malcolm Brachman, Paul Soloway, Mike Passell, Eddie Wold, Bobby Goldman
- 5 Lorenzo Lauria, Alfredo Versace, Massimo Lanzarotti, Andrea Buratti, Antonio Sementa
- 6 Seymon Deutsch, Bobby Wolff, James Rosenbloom, Billy Cohen
- 7 Gerald Sosler, Kay Schulle, David Berkowitz, Larry Cohen
- 8 Perry Johnson, Jeff Meckstroth, Geoff Hampson, Eric Greco
- 9 Rita Shugart, Andy Robson, Marek Szymanowski, Krzysztof Martens
- 10 Peter Boyd, Steve Robinson, Kit Woolsey, Fred Stewart
- 11 Russ Ekeblad, Sheila Ekeblad, John Sutherlin, Michael Seamon, Richie Schwartz, Drew Casen
- 12 Rose Johnson, Alan Sontag, Peter Weichsel, Mark Molson, Boris Baran
- 13 Steve Weinstein, Robert Levin, Chip Martel, Lew Stansby
- 14 Manuel Capucho, Maria Joao Lara, Franco Pietri, Mario Di Maio
- 15 Robert Blanchard, Piotr Gawrys, Gaylor Kasle, George Steiner
- 16 R. Milner, Marc Jacobus, Fred Gitelman, Brad Moss, Ron Smith
- 17 Hector Camberos, Pablo Lombardi, Mike Moss, Bjorn Fallenius
- 18 Billy Miller, Curtis Cheek, Kyle Larsen, O'Rourke, Roger Bates
- 19 Wayne Chu, Tim Cope, Craig Gower, Chris Convery
- 20 Sorin Peacoff, Michael Elianescu, Verone Lungu, Florin Rometti, Daniel Sawin
- 21 Enza Rosano, Antonio Vivaldi, Camello, Rossetti
- 22 Gerhard Schiesser, Roland Rohofsky, Paul Chemla, Christian Mari
- 23 Gabriel Chagas, Zia Mahmood, Michel Abecassis, Boye Brogeland, Espen Erichsen
- 24 Sam Lev, Barnet Shenkin, John Mohan, Brian Glubok, John Roberts
- 25 Hugh Ross, Bruce Ferguson, Brenda Keller, Charleton Buckley, Peter Nagy
- 26 Adam Wildavsky, Steve Beatty, Bart Bramley, Sidney Lazard
- 27 Billy Eisenberg, Fred Hamilton, Larry Cohen, Mickey Friedman
28. HOUSE TEAM

## Entrants for the MSN Gaming Zone Cavendish Pairs

Pair #		Pair #	
1	Gaylor Kastle – George Steiner	33	Jim Robinson Jr – Gene Freed
2	Ralph Katz – George Jacobs	34	John Onstott – Mark Lair
3	David Berkowitz – Larry Cohen	35	Pablo Lambardi – Hector Camberos
4	Alan Sontag – Peter Weichsel	36	Curtis Cheek – Billy Miller
5	Seymon Deutsch – Bobby Wolff	37	Eric Rodwell – Robin Klar
6	Lee Rautenberg – Drew Casen	38	James Rosenbloom – Amos Kaminsky
7	Bob Hamman – Nick Nickell	39	Eddie Wold – Mike Passell
8	Kerri Sanborn – Steve Sanborn	40	Dan Mordecai – Roger Bates
9	Jeff Meckstroth – Perry Johnson	41	Tim Cope – Wayne Chu
10	Krzysztof Martens – Marek Szymanowski	42	Chris Convery – Craig Gower
11	Howard Weinstein – Steve Garner	43	Paul Lewis – Linda Lewis
12	Steve Robinson – Peter Boyd	44	Gary Cohler – Harry Tudor
13	Sam Lev – Barnet Shenkin	45	Neil Chambers – John Schirmer
14	Mike Moss – Bjorn Fallenius	46	Paul Soloway – Malcolm Brachman
15	Sidney Lazard – Bart Bramley	47	Franco Pietri – Mario Di Maio
16	Lorenzo Lauria – Alfredo Versace	48	Henry Mansell – George Mittelman
17	Massimo Lanzarotti – Andrea Buratti	49	Ishmael Del Monte – Lionel Wright
18	Ron Smith – Billy Cohen	50	Maria Joao Lara – Manuel Capucho
19	Brad Moss – Fred Gitelman	51	Boye Brogeland – Espen Erichsen
20	Chip Martel – Lew Stansby	52	Eric Greco – Geoff Hampson
21	Michel Abecassis – Mark Molson	53	Andrzej Zakrewski – Chris Compton
22	Daniel Sawin – Verone Lungu	54	Enza Rosano – Antonio Vivaldi
23	Kay Schulle – John Mohan	55	Fabio Rosati – Amedeo Camella
24	Russ Ekeblad – John Sutherlin	56	Michael Cornell – Ashley Bach
25	Sheila Ekeblad – Michael Seamon	57	Gerhard Schiesser – Roland Rohofsky
26	Richie Schwartz – Marc Jacobus	58	Robert Blanchard – Piotr Gawrys
27	Fred Stewart – Kit Woolsey	59	Joe Jabon – Aiden Ballentyne
28	Robert Levin – Steve Weinstein	60	Gunnar Hallberg – William Whittaker
29	Rita Shugart – Andy Robson	61	Fred Hamilton – Billy Eisenberg
30	Adam Wildavsky – Dan Morse	62	Shawn Quinn – Mildred Breed
31	Zia Mahmood – Gabriel Chagas	63	Christian Mari – Paul Chemla
32	Grant Baze – Mike Whitman	64	Brian Glubok – John Roberts

# Gems From Last Year's MSN Gaming Zone Cavendish Invitational

by Barry Rigal

The 1998 Cavendish Teams and Pairs were held at the Mirage Hotel. Last year for the first time a secondary pairs event was also held. Duplicated boards were used throughout the pairs and teams, making the reporters' task in searching for material considerably easier.

Bd: 17	♠ 10642		
Vul: None	♥ J103		
Dir: North	♦ 94		
	♣ K643		
♠ A85		♠ 7	
♥ Q4		♥ AK9852	
♦ Q852		♦ J3	
♣ 10852		♣ AQJ7	
	♠ KQJ93		
	♥ 76		
	♦ AK1076		
	♣ 9		
West	North	East	South
Moss	Van Cleeff	Fallenius	Jansma
–	Pass	1♥	3♣(1)
Pass	4♠	All Pass	
(1) Spades and diamonds			

The winners of the teams came out on the right end of this pair of hands when they met their only serious competitors in the penultimate match (Moss, Fallenius, Camberos and Lambardi). I am not convinced that Bauke Muller necessarily followed the right theoretical line on our first example, but it certainly worked!

4♠ went quietly down two for 100 to Moss. But at the other table a Michaels 2♥ bid was raised only to 3♠ by Lambardi. Muller rebid 4♥ and over 4♠ De Boer bid 5♥. Camberos doubled and led the ♦K, then shifted to the ♠K.

The play has the potential for complexity (which four-one splits are you going to try to handle?) and maybe the right play is the ♣10 from dummy at once. Muller played a low club to the jack and when the nine fell, he drew two trumps ending in dummy and repeated the club finesse for plus 650 and an overall win, 27-3.

Since both lines appear to succeed when South has ♣9x and a singleton ♥J or ♥10 (in one case you play two rounds of clubs at once, in the other case you cross to dummy to lead the ♣10 at your next opportunity), it appears that there are an equal number of singletons that you can pick up either way. That does not allow for the fact that a resourceful South with ♥J/10 and ♣9x will drop the nine under the jack. Now you have to commit yourself to playing him for a singleton in one suit or the other and cannot do both!

In the second example (right) it seemed to me that our two featured teams had auctions just like the three bears. The first one was too cold, the second one too hot...

Camberos' sequence sounded like a clear grand slam try and Lambardi had great controls but only three spades. Was that enough? Lambardi decided no. By contrast the auction from the other table saw the

		♠ KJ2	
		♥ 4	
		♦ AQ1095	
		♣ AJ105	
♠ 1086		♠ 7	
♥ KJ10865		♥ Q972	
♦ KJ8		♦ 763	
♣ 7		♣ 98632	
		♠ AQ9543	
		♥ A3	
		♦ 42	
		♣ KQ4	
West	North	East	South
De Boer	Lambardi	Muller	Camberos
2♥	Dbl	4♥	4NT
Pass	5♦	Pass	5♥
Pass	6♣	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

North hand take a considerably more aggressive posture:

West	North	East	South
Moss	Van Cleeff	Fallenius	Jansma
2♥	Dbl	3♥	4♥
Pass	5♥(!)	Pass	7♠
All Pass			

When Van Cleeff showed what sounded like significant extras, Jansma bravely bid the grand slam and picked up 11 imps for his pains. To my mind the following auction was just right:

West	North	East	South
Savin	Pollack	Lungu	Casen
2♥	Dbl	3♥	4♥
Pass	5♦	Pass	5♥
Pass	6♣	Pass	6♠
Pass	7♠	All Pass	

On this auction Pollack heard his partner show some sort of Grand Slam interest even facing a three-card spade suit and now he clearly had enough controls to fill the holes his partner might have.

The teams event generated a series of outstanding examples in other areas of the game, namely play and defense.

Bd: 2	♠ KQ97654	
Vul: N/S	♥ Q10	
Dir: East	♦ 43	
	♣ A8	
♠ 8		♠ A102
♥ KJ972		♥ A4
♦ KQJ108		♦ A97652
♣ 73		♣ KJ
	♠ J3	
	♥ 8653	
	♦ —	
	♣ Q1096542	

Jill Levin (formerly Blanchard) was given the chance to shine when she was confronted with the best defense by an intelligent opening lead. (Incidentally, since her marriage Jill Levin and Irina Levitina have displaced Helness and Helgemo as the expert partnership with names closest alphabetically!)

West	North	East	South
Levin	Mohan	Levitina	Bates
—	—	1NT	Pass
2♦(1)	2♠	Pass	Pass
3♦(2)	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♠	Pass
5♦	Pass	6♦	All Pass
(1) Transfer; (2) Retransfer			

The room seemed to regard the East hand as a strong no-trump (it is interesting how off-center the American players are about their 1NT opening bids, whereas the UK style with a wide-range 1NT rebid seems to allow for alternative treatment of what are essentially semi-balanced hands). Levin was forced by her system to re-transfer at her second turn and thus started describing her hand at a slightly inconvenient level. Levitina naturally had some grand-slam interest, but settled for the small slam when Levin could not cooperate. The significance of the cue-bids was not lost on John Mohan who led the ♣8 to trick one. Jill had enough respect for him to consider that he might be up to that and given his overcall rather than a preemptive action, she guessed right to put up the king and made 13 tricks. Nicely done everyone.

The contract of 4♥ (see diagram, next page), reached universally, is not a thing of beauty. Off three aces with a delicate trump holding, it seems as if the cards lie so well that only an initial diamond lead beats the hand by getting a ruff for South.

That is not quite so; consider the effect of the lead of the ♣2, playing fourth highest leads, found by Gunner Hallberg. Declarer won to drive out the ♠A. South, Brian Glubok, took the ♠A and played a

Bd: 12	♠ 1098	
Vul: N/S	♥ 843	
Dir: West	♦ A842	
	♣ 1072	
♠ 5		♠ KQ743
♥ KQ97652		♥ 10
♦ Q103		♦ KJ65
♣ AK		♣ QJ6
	♠ AJ62	
	♥ AJ	
	♦ 97	
	♣ 98543	

second club – nice, but by no means obvious defense. Declarer won and played a diamond and North also did well when he hopped up with the ace (drawing the inference that declarer had the ♦Q or else he would have unblocked the clubs before playing the spade). Had he not done so, declarer cashes the ♠Q and ♣Q to discard his diamonds. Now Hallberg played a third club; declarer won in dummy and ran the ♥10, covered by the jack and queen. This was the ending:

the more natural play of the ♥K, Glubok won and led a fourth club, promoting the H8 to the setting trick!

At this point West, Billy Cohen, had to read the precise heart and club position and exit with a low heart to make his contract. When he made

	♠ 109	
	♥ 84	
	♦ 842	
	♣ —	
♠ —		♠ Q743
♥ K97652		♥ —
♦ Q		♦ KJ6
♣ —		♣ —
	♠ J62	
	♥ A	
	♦ 9	
	♣ 98	

Bd: 16	♠ 97	
Vul: E/W	♥ J973	
Dir: West	♦ K	
	♣ K97643	
♠ KQ42		♠ 1083
♥ A4		♥ K52
♦ AQ86		♦ J10743
♣ Q85		♣ A10
	♠ AJ65	
	♥ Q1086	
	♦ 952	
	♣ 2	

3NT (left) is a fascinating contract; the field was fairly well split between those making it and those failing. If 3NT was reached by West the opening lead was generally a club to the ten, jack and queen. There were now several options, the simplest of which was to play a heart and take the diamond finesse – but in practice that was unlikely to be correct unless North had preempted.

Rita Shugart did have opposition bidding and did get the play right. It was more interesting when declarer crossed to a heart at trick two to try to steal a spade trick. If South ducked (as he did

against Jean-Christophe Quantin) declarer has nine tricks and does not need the miracle in diamonds. But if South hops up with the ♠A to clear the clubs he has to play the revealing 2♣ (suggesting he started life with an even number of clubs). Declarer takes the ♣A and is at the crossroads. If the ♣2 is a true card the suit is four-four or six-two and it is safe to play diamonds from the top. But could South be good enough to have led low from his remaining doubleton club with a vulnerable ♦K? You pays your money and you takes your chances. At the very least it is a useful piece of deceptive defense to have at your fingertips!

One other fascinating variant came up when 3NT was declared by East, which naturally attracted a heart lead and the auction suggested a four-four split. Declarer wins in hand and does best to take the diamond finesse by leading low to the queen. Yes North may beat you by ducking from Kx, but in that case he deserves it. The point is that you need entries back to the East hand if the ♦K is wrong. You may still be able to recover if you

	♠ 97	
	♥ J9	
	♦ —	
	♣ K9	
♠ KQ4		♠ 1083
♥ —		♥ 5
♦ —		♦ —
♣ Q85		♣ A10
	♠ AJ6	
	♥ 10	
	♦ —	
	♣ J2	



run the  $\diamond J$ ; you take the next heart to reel off the diamonds and reach the diagramed position (at right):

South has to keep three spades and North must keep his doubleton spade, else leading the  $\spadesuit 10$  sets up the suit if declarer reads the position. It does declarer no good to exit with a heart now, pitching a club.

North wins to cash the last heart and Declarer pitches a spade from dummy and South must pitch a spade, however West is also squeezed into pitching a spade or else North can exit with the  $\clubsuit K$ . North leads a spade and South wins to return the suit, to collect a club in the ending.

There is a winning route in the above ending, but it is really a little double-dummy. Play the  $\spadesuit 10$  from dummy, covered with the jack and queen. You can now exit with either a high or a low spade to make the hand. If you play a low spade the defense can't unscramble their five winners and must give you two club tricks at the end, while if you play the  $\spadesuit K$  dummy's eight becomes good.

Bd: 13	$\spadesuit$ 742	$\spadesuit$ QJ106
Vul: Both	$\heartsuit$ KJ93	$\heartsuit$ 10765
Dlr: North	$\diamond$ Q1054	$\diamond$ K83
	$\clubsuit$ A9	$\clubsuit$ 108
$\spadesuit$ 3		$\spadesuit$ AK985
$\heartsuit$ A		$\heartsuit$ Q842
$\diamond$ AJ97		$\diamond$ 62
$\clubsuit$ J765432		$\clubsuit$ KQ

Board 13 was a chapter of accidents at many tables.  $4\heartsuit$  clearly has little or no play – you would think that it would require a defensive error to have any chance. In fact, it was a declarer play that left a few Souths kicking themselves.

For example, Fred Gitelman declared  $4\heartsuit$  on a club lead. When he was in hand to lead a heart to West's ace would you have thought to unblock the  $\heartsuit 9$ ? Neither did Fred. He won the club return, cashed the  $\heartsuit K$ , led a spade to the eight(!) and now was in good shape – up to a point. He could cash the top spades and ruff a spade to set up the suit, but could not draw trumps and cross back to hand to cash the thirteenth spade because of the failure to unblock. He led a diamond to the ten and king. Back came a heart to dummy and he came back to hand in spades, and played a

second diamond, resulting in the following position:

A diamond now would have been fatal but Garner led a club, giving a ruff and discard. Gitelman ruffed the club in dummy as Howard Weinstein threw his diamond. Now a diamond ruffed and overruffed left Weinstein winning trick thirteen for one down. Never in doubt!

Bd: 15	$\spadesuit$ 98	$\spadesuit$ 2
Vul: N/S	$\heartsuit$ 942	$\heartsuit$ AJ7
Dlr: South	$\diamond$ QJ4	$\diamond$ AK109752
	$\clubsuit$ KQ982	$\clubsuit$ 103
$\spadesuit$ AKQ106		$\spadesuit$ J7543
$\heartsuit$ KQ108		$\heartsuit$ 653
$\diamond$ 86		$\diamond$ 3
$\clubsuit$ 54		$\clubsuit$ AJ76

Which is the best game on the E/W cards (left)? I believe  $4\heartsuit$  is clearly best (you can ruff a spade and draw trumps for ten easy tricks). Both Mahmood-Steve Weinstein and Gitelman-Moss reached  $4\heartsuit$  after  $1\spadesuit-2\diamond$ ;  $2\heartsuit-3\diamond$ ;  $3\spadesuit-4\heartsuit$ .

In the two-over-one style this sequence suggested exactly this hand-type and both Wests were happy to pass with such chunky trumps.

$\spadesuit$ —	$\spadesuit$ 7	$\spadesuit$ J10
$\heartsuit$ —	$\heartsuit$ J	$\heartsuit$ 10
$\diamond$ J9	$\diamond$ Q5	$\diamond$ 3
$\clubsuit$ J7	$\clubsuit$ —	$\clubsuit$ —
	$\spadesuit$ K95	
	$\heartsuit$ Q	
	$\diamond$ —	
	$\clubsuit$ —	

By comparison, the nine-card trump fit of  $5\diamond$  is poor. If the

defense can work out to cash their clubs declarer will surely go down. Ten of the 28 pairs stopped in 4♦ or went down in game. The interesting contract is 4♠ – but just how good is it? If the defense leads two rounds of clubs what should they do next? If they play a trump declarer can finesse trumps to hold his spade losers to one. Fallenius did well shift to his singleton diamond at trick three (would he have done the same with a doubleton diamond and five spades?) Declarer now feared the diamond ruff and played trumps from the top and had to go one down when the trump coup failed since Fallenius could ruff the second diamond.

If the defense had played a third club declarer could succeed if he reads the position, pitching a diamond from hand and ruffing in dummy. The winning line is to cash three top spades to find the bad news. Now take three rounds of hearts to reach this ending:

♠ 106	♠ —
♥ 8	♥ —
♦ 8	♦ QJ4
♣ —	♣ Q
	♠ J7
	♥ —
	♦ 3
	♣ J

West leads out the ♦AK and South does best to discard, but declarer is in dummy for the trump coup.

Fishermen always tell you about the one that got away. The day after the Cavendish finished Amos Kaminski showed me a spectacular declarer play hand – but one where he had spoiled his own brilliancy by pulling the wrong card in the ending.

Amos opened 1♣ with the West cards and North overcalled 1♦. Amos might sensibly have reopened with 1NT; instead he doubled, and when Jimmy

Rosenbloom bid 1♠ he tried 1NT, raised to 3NT by Jimmy. On the diamond lead declarer knew North must have most of the outstanding high cards – and he could see little hope if North had both club honors. So he made the remarkable decision to win the ♦K and lay down the ♣K. North took the trick (it does not help to duck since he later gets endplayed in the minors) and played a top diamond. Kaminski won and played a second club. South took the ♣Q and tried a low heart. Kaminski won it and cashed the second top heart; when North followed with two low hearts Amos decided he needed the ♠Q to make

♠ Q9	♠ K865
♥ 105	♥ 864
♦ QJ854	♦ A97
♣ A1085	♣ 632
♠ AJ4	♠ 10732
♥ AK2	♥ QJ973
♦ K32	♥ 106
♣ KJ94	♣ Q7

up any sort of overcall. He cashed the ace and king of spades to drop the queen and then played his third top spade. This was the ending:

♠ —	♠ 86
♥ —	♥ 8
♦ J85	♦ 9
♣ 108	♣ 6
♠ J	♠ 107
♥ 2	♥ QJ9
♦ 2	♥ —
♣ J9	♣ —

When the ♠J is led North gets squeezed into releasing a diamond and can now be endplayed to concede two club tricks in the ending. Alas, Kaminski in his excitement led the ♣9, not the ♦2, and went one down. While 3NT was going two down everywhere, and he thus picked up quite a few cross imps, he had missed his chance of a brilliancy prize.